

MESSAGE FORM

ROUTING AND/OR INITIALS - SEEN BY

SECRET

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TO: GACarver, Jr.

FROM: DCI/SAVA

23 Jul 69

FOR SECRETARIAT DISSEMINATION

☐ INDEX

☐ NO INDEX

☐ RETURN TO

BRANCH

☐ FILE AID

PER FE/NOO # 8

☐ FILE IN CS FILE NO.

INFO

FILE, VR.

DCI, D/DCI, DDP

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(classification)

(date and time filed)

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SAIGON

23 22 15Z JUL 69

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1. I WAS DISTURBED AND, FRANKLY, PERPLEXED BY STATEMENTS REPORTED IN REFS ALLEGING NEED FOR [ ] INTELLIGENCE ON VIETNAM, PARTICULARLY SAIGON STATION REPORTS, TO REACH POLICY LEVELS HERE AND, HENCE, THAT SUCH INTELLIGENCE IS NOT PRESENTLY GETTING THROUGH TO POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS. THESE ALLEGATIONS ARE UNFOUNDED AND INACCURATE TO A DEGREE THAT MAKES ME WONDER WHY THEY WERE MADE.

25X1

2. ADMIRAL LEMOS' STATEMENTS, BEING MORE SPECIFIC, ARE EASIER TO REFUTE. ALL FOUR OF THE [ ] REPORTS CITED IN REF A WERE GIVEN TDCS DISSEMINATION HERE: THREE IMMEDIATELY, THE FOURTH (YOUR [ ]) AFTER AN EXCHANGE OF CORRESPONDENCE TO CLARIFY CERTAIN DETAILS. ALL FOUR WERE SENT, AMONG

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COORDINATING OFFICER

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PAGE TWO

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OTHER PLACES, TO THE WHITE HOUSE, STATE, THE JCS, AND SEVERAL COMPONENTS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, INCLUDING ISA. IT WOULD THUS APPEAR THAT ADMIRAL LEMOS HAS NOT BEEN READING HIS MAIL.

3. MOST [ ] REPORTS FROM SAIGON ARE DISSEMINATED THROUGH THE TDCS MECHANISM TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE WASHINGTON INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY AND THE POLICY OFFICES MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS ON VIETNAM DECISIONS. CERTAIN REPORTS OF PARTICULAR SIGNIFICANCE (BECAUSE OF THEIR CONTENT AND/OR THE SENSITIVITY OF THEIR SOURCE) ARE SENT DIRECTLY TO SECRETARY ROGERS, SECRETARY LAIRD, DR. KISSINGER, GENERAL WHEELER, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GREEN AND HIS VIETNAM DEPUTY, AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN, OVER TRANSMITTAL SLIPS THAT I SIGN PERSONALLY. IN ADDITION, WE HAVE SET UP A SPECIAL SYSTEM OF TRANSMITTAL MEMORANDA THROUGH WHICH I FLAG MATTERS OF PRIME IMPORTANCE AND/OR GREAT SENSITIVITY FOR THE IMMEDIATE, PERSONAL AND EYES ONLY ATTENTION OF SECRETARY ROGERS AND

COORDINATING OFFICERS

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DATE: 10/28/78

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DR. KISSINGER AND WHICH WAS ESTABLISHED AT ROGERS' PERSONAL  
 INSTIGATION. (THIS IS THE VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH [ ] REPORTS  
 ARE DISSEMINATED.)

25X1

4. IN ADDITION TO DISSEMINATING AND CIRCULATING THE FIELD  
 INTELLIGENCE IN THE SAIGON STATION'S REPORTS, PLUS RAW REPORTS  
 FROM MANY OTHER SOURCES, WE DISSEMINATE DAILY ALL SOURCE,  
 FINISHED INTELLIGENCE PUBLICATIONS ON VIETNAM WHICH SYNTHESIZE,  
 COLLATE AND DISTILL ALL OF OUR FIELD REPORTING. THERE ARE ALSO  
 VIETNAM SECTIONS IN SPECIAL FINISHED REPORTS INCLUDING THE DAILY  
 BRIEF PREPARED FOR [ ] IN ADDITION TO THESE REGULARLY  
 SCHEDULED ALL SOURCE PUBLICATIONS, WE ALSO PREPARE A VARIETY  
 OF SPECIAL MEMORANDA ON VIETNAM FOR SENIOR OFFICIALS, FREQUENTLY  
 AT THEIR REQUEST. WE KNOW FROM THEIR COMMENTS AND REACTIONS  
 THAT THESE REPORTS, PUBLICATIONS AND MEMORANDA ARE BOTH  
 RECEIVED AND READ. FOR EXAMPLE, OUR RECENT (3 JULY) MEMO ON  
 HANOI'S SHORT TERM INTENTIONS, WHICH DREW HEAVILY ON STATION

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Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP80R01720R000600030021-6

GROUP 1

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REPORTING, WAS STUDIED WITH CARE, DISCUSSED AND PRAISED BY

[REDACTED], SECRETARY ROGERS AND SECRETARY LAIRD.

5. ON SEVERAL RECENT OCCASIONS, I (OR, IN MY ABSENCE,

[REDACTED], HAVE BEEN SPECIFICALLY ASKED TO REVIEW VIETNAM

MATTERS AND PRESENT [REDACTED] VIEWS THEREON AT [REDACTED] MEETINGS. 25X1

STATION REPORTING HAS NATURALLY CONSTITUTED A MAJOR INPUT TO  
THESE BRIEFINGS.

6. THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TWO/THREE STAR LEVEL VIETNAM  
COORDINATING COMMITTEE, FORMERLY CHAIRED BY WILLIAM BUNDY, IS  
NOW AN OFFICIAL SUBCOMMITTEE OF [REDACTED] WITH AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN  
AS THE CHAIRMAN. THIS GROUP HOLDS THREE REGULAR MEETINGS EACH  
WEEK AND MEETS EVEN MORE FREQUENTLY WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES SO  
WARRANT. [REDACTED] SITS ON THIS COMMITTEE AS MY REPRESENTATIVE  
AND [REDACTED] ALSO ATTENDS MOST OF THE MEETINGS. THIS GROUP'S  
SESSIONS ALWAYS INCLUDE A REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF CURRENT  
DEVELOPMENTS AND SIGNIFICANT FIELD REPORTING, A FACT WHICH

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CITE DIRECTOR

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SHOULD HAVE BEEN WELL KNOWN TO ADMIRAL LEMOS WHO FREQUENTLY ATTENDS THESE MEETINGS AS THE ISA REPRESENTATIVE. IN ADDITION,

MEETS WEEKLY WITH SECRETARY LAIRD IN THE LATTER'S OFFICE. THESE SESSIONS LAST FOR AT LEAST AN HOUR, INVOLVE A COMPREHENSIVE, INFORMAL REVIEW OF VIETNAM TRENDS AND INVARIABLY INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTING FROM THE SAIGON STATION.

7. I HAVE OUTLINED THE ABOVE MATTERS IN SOME DETAIL BECAUSE I WANT TO LAY TO REST ANY CONCERNS THAT MAY HAVE BEEN GENERATED IN YOUR MIND BY THE SPECIFIC COMMENTS OF ADMIRAL LEMOS OR THE INFERENCE YOU, QUITE REASONABLY, SEEM TO HAVE DRAWN FROM GENERAL WHEELER'S REMARKS. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NO WAY OF CONTROLLING WHAT DOCUMENTS OR TDCS REPORTS THE STAFF PHYSICALLY PLACES ON DESK, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU FROM CERTAIN KNOWLEDGE THAT INTELLIGENCE PRODUCT DOES REACH AND IS ATTENTIVELY CONSIDERED BY POLICY LEVEL OFFICIALS, INCLUDING WE WILL GET HOLD OF GENERAL WHEELER AND

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ADMIRAL LEMOS AND ENDEAVOR TO CORRECT THEIR MISCONCEPTIONS.

END OF MESSAGE

25X1 Summary of [ ] (1) discussion with Rear Admiral Lemos on 19 July, during  
25X1 which Adm. Lemos suggested that [ ] had a packaging problem in how to get  
its data before policy makers.

25X1 \*\* Conversation between [ ] and Gen. Wheeler, during which point was  
stressed by Gen. Wheeler that reporting from [ ] assets had to reach  
[ ] for without such inside information on which to draw, it was possible  
that advice from policy makers insensitive to the realities in South Vietnam might  
influence United States to go too far too fast in the Vietnamization effort.

25X1

C/FE Mr. Nelson (in draft)

DDP Mr. Karamessines (in draft)

COORDINATING OFFICERS

Richard Helms  
RELEASING OFFICER

George A. Carver  
SAVA  
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